

*For Immediate Release*

## The IDOC Donates a Half Million to Worthy Causes in 2008!

Indianapolis, Indiana (January 23, 2009)—The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) may be best known for providing public safety and incarcerating offenders. However, throughout 2008, both IDOC staff and offenders gave back to communities in Indiana in a big way through generous monetary and item donations to many worthy causes.

Astoundingly, IDOC staff and offenders contributed an overwhelming \$0.5 million worth of money and goods in 2008! Most of that figure, over \$200,000, went to the State Employees' Community Campaign, a fundraising drive for state employees that involves a multitude of various charities. In addition, \$30,000 in money and supplies was donated to The Villages of Indiana, Indiana's largest not-for-profit family services agency. Plus, over \$8,400 was given to the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents' "Make a Smile" campaign, which assists storm-ravaged areas on the Gulf Coast build playgrounds for children. These examples are the biggest donations from 2008, yet IDOC staff and offenders across the state raised money throughout the year for a number of charities and causes.

Furthermore, more than \$200,000 worth of goods, such as food, clothing, bicycles, and school supplies, were given to charities across the state in 2008. The greatest total, 8,500 food and clothing items, was donated to food pantries in time for the holidays. Multiple facility gardens also grew and donated many pounds of fresh produce to food pantries during the growing season. Moreover, almost 1,000 bicycles and 230 wheelchairs were restored by offenders and given to deserving recipients.



Bicycles, backpacks, and school supplies were donated to The Villages of Indiana.

Some of the organizations that benefitted from IDOC efforts in 2008 included:

State Employees' Community Campaign  
The Villages of Indiana  
Gleaners Food Bank  
Lord's Locker  
St. Mark's Food Bank  
Special Olympics  
Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
American Cancer Society's Relay for Life  
American Red Cross  
NAAWS "Make a Smile" Campaign  
Salvation Army  
Correctional Peace Officers Foundation



Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility food donations are ready to be distributed to a local food bank.

“The overwhelming generosity of IDOC staff and offenders in 2008 speaks volumes for the good work being done within the agency. Even though everyone had to tighten their belts a little with the struggling economy, the large numbers of donations clearly show the willingness of IDOC staff and offenders to give back to those in need,” stated IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

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